

children, than I was, carried there, and thought I would give all the world, if I knew where they were gone; and would cry as if my heart would break, and pray to this unknown Being, that he would not send me to hell, and that I might not die, until I knew how to prepare for death; for I thought there was something to be done, which I could do, when I was grown up. I still felt a continual fear, that I might die; and if I should, O the thoughts where I should awake. I often in my heart felt angry with ~~the~~ Adam, and thought he was very foolish, and ought to have punishment for ruining himself and all his posterity only for the sake of a few apples, or some other sort of fruit, as I thought, yea and many, many professed christians do think still, that the trees of that paradise were corporeal.

WHEN I was about nine years of age, I began to read much in the books that I could understand, and studied much to find out how to get in favour with the great invisible God. I went to meeting almost every Sabbath and some would tell me about the stars, and great things that God had made, and others the necessity of externals, and being moral, &c. but I do not remember that ever I heard any one of them adapt their discourse to the capacity of children, and tell them in plain words, that they must be born again by the spirit of God, and that they must feel and know this new birth each one for himself. Indeed, I suppose, that if the minister in many churches and societies was to leave his old town, or old paper that he is reading, and begin with the young people and children, asking them what they knew of conversion and impress the immediate necessity of the knowledge of the spirit of God in their souls, it would be so new, that the people would start and stare, as if the man was running wild. O what a curse are such poor formal blind leaders! Lord have mercy on them, and open their eyes, and save the poor souls, that they are leading to perdition, before they are gone beyond recovery.

WHEN I was about ten, I had got something of a theory of religion, but it did not satisfy me; I was much afraid of being called away by death, and O the distressing thoughts I had of dying and going I knew not where; yea I was so afraid of death, that whenever I felt any pains in my body, I would tremble, thinking it was some disorder, that would carry me off; and whenever I went a swim-